

Hawaiian Monk Seal

By: Matthew H.

Hawaiian monk seals are pinnipeds, a type of marine mammal including seals, sea lions and walruses. Hawaiians monk seals are described with having large eyes, prominent snouts, stream-lined shapes and four swimming flippers.

Did you know pinnipeds means "feather or fin-footed." Scientists have thought that pinnipeds have evolved from terrestrial mammals about 20 million years ago. Their closest ancestors are dog and bears. Hawaiian Monk Seals population is 1,200 individuals.

A Hawaiian Monk Seal eats lobsters, eels, octopus, a wide variety of reef fish, and sometimes small sharks!

There are five interesting facts about Hawaiian monk seals that I want to share with you. One interesting fact is in the wild, Hawaiian monk seals live up to 30 years old! Its cause of death (human factor aside) includes shark attacks, fish poisoning, and old age. Another interesting fact is that a Hawaiian monk seal died off on Laysan Island in 1978. The Hawaiian monk seals are endemic to Hawaii. The Hawaiian monk seal is about 2m long; adults weigh 180 to 270kg. Females are a bit bigger than males. The Hawaiian monk seals Hawaiian name is Ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua. Hawaiian Monk Seals communicate by their mouths by honking. Hawaiian Monk Seals can hold their breath underwater for 20 minutes. Hawaiian monk seals can live at sea for a whole month. Also they can dive up to 600 feet. Hawaiian Monk Seals only live on the Hawaiian Islands because they cannot find the same food and habitat anywhere else. That's why they're endemic to Hawaii. They can adapt to their environment to Hawaii because their flippers help them to swim really quick to escape its predators.